

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Kazuaki OKUNO et al.	)	
	)	Confirmation No.: 9193
Application No.: 10/573,821	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 1652
Filed: March 28, 2006	)	
	)	Examiner: Sheridan Swope
For: POLYPEPTIDE CLEAVAGE METHOD USING OmpT PROTEASE VARIANT	)	

**SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
**MAIL STOP PCT**

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 3.

Remarks begin on page 10.